

Anaconda Times

Proudly Serving LSA Anaconda

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March 22, 2004

No business like show business

First indoor movie theater hits the stage for troops deployed to Iraq

Story by Spc. Blanka Stratford
13th COSCOM Public Affairs

A traditional ribbon cutting ceremony and a not-so-traditional cutting of two gargantuan cakes marked the grand opening of the Sustainer Indoor Theater, the first indoor 35mm movie theater for troops at LSA Anaconda, March 17.

"It's a way of bringing a taste of home back to the Soldiers," said Col. (P) James Chambers, commander of the 13th Corps Support Command. "[Soldiers] have worked hard and under high risk conditions. They deserve it."

The notion of the theater, which underwent a variety of improvements and alterations before reaching its final stage, began with the 3rd COSCOM's initiative to improve the quality of life for service members deployed to Iraq. The operation then moved to the Mid East Trading Company, which renovated the theater under the supervision of Mr. Gene Tindall.

Under the final authority of the 13th COSCOM, the indoor theater was completed by members of the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, who provided sound, projection, food and, of course, the movies.

Soldiers were thrilled with the idea.

"I think AAFES did a really great job, not only with the theater but with the ceremony," said Sgt. Melinda Bluemling, water purification specialist for the 326th Quartermaster Detachment, based out of New Castle, Penn. "They brought huge cakes down here, they prayed for our safety and thanked God for everything. They really know how to start something up and get it out to the Soldiers."

Bluemling, who has been in country for nearly a year and has less than 20 days to go, said she hopes other service



Photo by Spc. Blanka Stratford

Moreno Alarilla, chief of food and theater for the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, Europe and Southwest Asia divisions, and John Tokar, manager for the AAFES area of operations, set down a crate-sized cake for Soldiers to dig into during the grand opening ceremony of the Sustainer Indoor Theater at LSA Anaconda, March 17.

members will use the opportunity they have to go to the theater and take a rest from the stresses of everyday work.

"The troops in Iraq have left behind the things and the people they love in order to help carry the flag of freedom to those who've been denied it for so long," said Col. Shelley Richardson, commander of the AAFES Europe and Southwest Asia divisions. "Soldiers' sacrifices will soon mean that many people will be able to enjoy the freedoms we love. For that, AAFES thanks the Armed Forces."

AAFES' token of appreciation – the Sustainer Indoor Theater – is currently playing three free movies a day, at 3:00p.m., 6:00p.m., and 9:00p.m.

ARABIC FAMILIARIZATION CLASS

Story by PFC Eric Rodriguez
13th COSCOM Public Affairs

Ever stuck in a situation where the local nationals are laughing and you want to know why?

Now there is a solution.

The 13th Corps Support Command (COSCOM) Civil Affairs team has started a language and cultural familiarization class at LSA Anaconda.

"Understanding basic Arabic language and culture is important for everyone working with local nationals" said Maj. Juliann Doris with 13th COSCOM Civil Affairs.

Local translators who work with the civil affairs staff on a daily basis teach the class. It is held every Thursday from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. in building 4135, the civil affairs building on PX Road.

"The class will teach soldiers basic phrases in Arabic," said Master Sgt. Lee Inserto from the 350th Civil Affairs Command from Mountain View, Calif. "It is a real helpful course that everyone is welcome to participate in."

Please contact either Maj. Doris or Master Sgt. Inserto at DNV 538-4262 for additional information.



Photo by Pfc. Eric Rodriguez
Farra, a translator for the 13th COSCOM Civil Affairs, teaches the Arabic familiarization class.

NEWS

Page 2

March 22, 2004

Walking the walk, talking the talk *United States Senators take on Camp Anaconda*

Story by Spc. Blanka Stratford

13th COSCOM Public Affairs

LSA Anaconda had a taste of Congressional flavor when three U.S. Senators visited the base, greeting service members and expressing their gratitude, March 15.

The political powers were Senators John Warner (R) of Virginia, Ted Stevens (R) of Alaska, and Fritz Hollings (D) of South Carolina. All three said they were highly enthused about their trip to Iraq and the opportunity to shake hands with some of America's finest and brightest.

"I am very thrilled to be here," said Sen. Hollings. "It brings me great pleasure to see such courage and such high morale amongst the [service members]. The troops are doing an outstanding job."

Hollings, 80, had served as ranking member on the Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, where he defended a variety of issues such as consumer protection, coastal preservation, and transportation security. Hollings plans to retire from the Senate this year, but said he will continue to support the nation's interests, to include the American Soldier.

"We are all very proud of the members of our Armed Forces," said Sen. Warner, in reference to his and his colleagues' position on U.S. military achievements during Operation Iraqi Freedom. "[Service members] have fought bravely to both preserve the freedom of the United States and to provide freedom for Iraq."

Warner himself had been on active duty for more than 12 years, serving with the U.S. Navy during World War II and the Marines during the Korean War.

Warner is currently serving as Chairman of the Armed Services Committee, an organization focused on issues such as the development of defense systems, military research, benefits



Photo by Spc. Blanka Stratford

U.S. Senator for Virginia John Warner (R) holds a discussion with Sgt. Lis Brown, lane NCO for the 302nd Transportation Company, while waiting in line at the LSA Anaconda dining facility, March 15.

of service members, and many aspects of national security.

"It's an honor having the Senators here," said Sgt. First-Class Michael Banovetz, combat heavy engineer for the 84th Engineer Battalion, Company C, based out of Ft. Richardson, Alaska. "I think this visit provides them with the opportunity to see what all the branches of the military are doing in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom."

On the same token, the Senatorial stopover provided Soldiers with an opportunity to feel good about themselves.

"This visit was good for morale," said Sgt. Mark Matthews, driver for the 1052nd Transportation Company. "It helps Soldiers see that the people in Congress – the people that make up our government – really do care about the Armed Forces."

Info for Soldiers: Morale Welfare Recreation Dividends

Story by 1st Lt. Diane Weed

AAFES Public Affairs

If you've ever been to a post movie, played golf on the base golf course, had lunch at the club or used the craft shop, you've done so in part because of the Army and Air Force Exchange Service. The money to support these and many other Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) initiatives comes in large part from Army and Air Force Exchange

Service (AAFES) earnings.

When troops spend money at AAFES stores, the majority of profits are returned to them. In 2002, AAFES returned more than \$220 million, or 67 percent of its profits, to the services - more than \$250 per soldier and airman.

"AAFES dividends are a major resource for financing the Army's MWR activities," said Douglas Ide, a civilian with the Army. "As an example, most of the dividends received from AAFES

provide the Army MWR Fund the resources to construct MWR facilities on Army installations."

Distribution of these earnings is required by the Department of Defense in support of MWR programs and is designed to improve the quality of life.

The remaining 33 percent of earnings are used in construction, renovation and other capital expenditures necessary for AAFES to be able to go where service members go.

NEWS

Page 3

March 22, 2004

17th Field Artillery turning bad into good

Story by PFC. Eric Rodriguez

13th COSCOM Public Affairs

Deep on the back roads west of LSA Anaconda, the 17th Field Artillery Brigade from Fort Sill, Okla., has given a place known as the "Badlands" something that its people cannot easily forget: hope for a better tomorrow.

Many families of the 'Badlands' had been forced to live without electricity, medical care, and adequate educational facilities for nearly 30 years.

What the 17th Field Artillery unit did to provide the villagers their newfound hope was to reconstruct two schools with electricity and set up a medical clinic.

"Off to one side there is an adobe brick shack that looks like no one can live in, let alone learn in," said Col. Nathan Slate, commander of the 17th Field Artillery Brigade. "A [new school] is what we

helped the Iraqi people build."

"We had playground equipment built; we installed electricity, and got new desks and blackboards for the children," he said. "So when you look at these kids smiling, realize something; they are smiling because we worked together."

Like many units deployed to Iraq, they were designed to do something completely different then their usual mission. However, it was the good hearts and the will of the soldiers that created a God-sent miracle for the Iraqi people who were in dire need of one.

"At first, we thought that we were going to be doing our job-artillery," said Cpt. Ricardo Pardo, Civil Affairs officer for the 17th Field Artillery. "When we came to Iraq and all of our equipment was left back in Kuwait, everyone was confused. Then we started transporting ordnance and at times destroying it."

"This was not the 17th Field Artillery's mission," said Master Sgt. Lee Inserto, plans non-commissioned officer-in-charge of 13th COSCOM Civil Affairs.

The 17th Field Artillery's commendable work in the 'Badlands' has inspired many units throughout the theater and abroad.

"Through their translator and the aid of the local villagers, the 17th recognized the need for help and they've done the best to fulfill that need," said Inserto. "We at 13th COSCOM Civil Affairs were very impressed by their show of good will. The locals loved them."

The Soldiers of the 17th Field Artillery exemplify the Army seven core values; especially selfless service. They helped the Iraqi people climb out of poverty and reach for something that they only dreamed of. Humanitarian efforts such as this continue to give the Iraqi people hope for a better tomorrow.

"We did everything possible to give [the locals] things when we were on convoys, but we wanted to do more," said Pardo. "And so we did."



Photo by Spc. Blanka Stratford
A little girl from a remote village known as the "Badlands" partakes in the simple joy of playing on a slide, March 7. The playground slide was just one of the improvements that the 17th Field Artillery Brigade has bestowed upon the Iraqi population.

Sustainer Reel Time Theater

This week's schedule



22 MARCH 04

- 1500 - Paycheck
- 1800 - Master & Commander
- 2100 - Hidalgo

23 MARCH 04

- 1500 - Hidalgo
- 1800 - Twisted
- 2100 - Paycheck

24 MARCH 04

- 1500 - Twisted
- 1800 - Hidalgo
- 2100 - Paycheck

25 MARCH 04

- 1500 - Master & Commander
- 1800 - Twisted
- 2100 - Hidalgo

26 MARCH 04

- 1500 - Perfect Score
- 1800 - Big Bounce
- 2100 - Lord of the Rings:
Return of the King

27 MARCH 04

- 1500 - Cheaper by the Dozen
- 1800 - Big Bounce
- 2100 - House of Sand and Fog

28 MARCH 04

- 1500 - Lord of the Rings:
Return of the King
- 1800 - Perfect Score
- 2100 - Cheaper by the Dozen

COMMENTARY

Page 4

March 22, 2004

Command Sgt. Maj. Dan Elder's message



**Command Sgt. Maj. Dan Elder
Provider 7**

13th Corps Support Command

Greetings to all Camp Anaconda and Balad Air Base military members. It only takes a few hours on the Camp to notice we are truly a joint endeavor as you see service members from the Army, Navy, Marines and Air Force. And from each of those services there are men and women from both the active, Reserve and Guard components that have pulled together to make this operation the success it has been. I encourage each of you to expand your horizons and learn something new from each of the services, as each has their own unique challenges and successes.

Regardless of which category you find yourself in, this month's message applies to all. No matter if you have two weeks and a wake up or 340 more days to go, discipline and standards are what make our nation's military strong. Our Camp is like any other city you might experience in YourTown, USA. We have electricians who produce our power, water specialists who make the water for our showers, our own shopping center, restaurants that provide meals to our vil-

lages, and a city Mayor who manages all the services required to keep the city operating efficiently. Just like any other town, we also have a police force with a sheriff, a fire department and an ambulance service.

The Mayor establishes the Camp rules based on regulations from DoD, the military Departments, theater policies, and many other directives. Each service has their own specific rules, but many of them are very similar. These rules are established for the good order and discipline of the Camp and when select individuals choose to ignore them, the entire Camp suffers. As the saying goes, for every action there is a reaction. When individuals fail to follow these rules, leaders must step forward and provide that reaction through on-the-spot-corrections, counseling, and occasionally disciplinary actions.

I challenge each of you to review the policies of Camp Anaconda with your leadership, both those who are old and new, military or civilian. One of the big-

gest excuses I hear as I correct members violating one of those rules is: "but Sergeant Major, I didn't know."

Each of the established rules is printed in a service regulation, and for local policies and procedures they are published in a policy letter. Leaders need to be especially aware as they are the enforcers of these rules and know that ignorance is not an excuse. If you do not have a copy of these policies and procedures in your work area, ask your unit first sergeant, commander, or higher headquarters for assistance in making sure you are informed.

I appreciate the hard work and dedication of the total team during "Operation Clean Sweep," the post clean up held March 16. This was an opportunity to make our work and living areas better than they were. Removing garbage, scrap metal and wood, cutting grass and washing the dirt, dust and grime off of everything has made our Camp a much better and healthier place to reside in.

Continue to be safe in all that you do.

Operation Clean Sweep



Photo by Spc. James Truitt

(from left to right) Spc. Bradley Berg, Spc. Mark Francisco, and Pfc. Kenneth Stirling, all from the 153rd Engineer Battalion, Company B, clear up trash during Operation Clean Sweep - an area beautification project at LSA Anaconda, March 16.

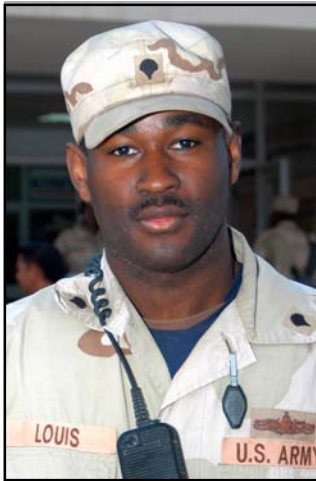
LIFESTYLES

Page 5

March 22, 2004

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What does the idea of freedom mean to you?



Spc. (P) Diery Louis
362nd MP Det.

"Freedom allows you to leave your home when you want and lets you see who you want, basically letting you do whatever you feel like doing."



Lance Cpl. Donald Barchesky
8th ESB Bridge Co.

"Freedom gives us the chance to go out on your own and have the liberty to be your own person in this great big world of ours."



Spc. Christopher Smith
HHC 2 BDE, 1ID

"Freedom is the ability to practice the religion I choose with out obstruction and the ability to pursue happiness and self improvement."



Sgt. Anthony Hooks
282nd Qm. Co.

"Freedom is just that, being free. It means you can do what you want to do as long as you do everything in a respectful way."



Sr. Airman Leslie Path
332 ELRS/TMO

"Freedom means everything thing to me!"



Sgt. Robert Brooks
660 Trans. Co.

"Freedom is the ability to make decisions and act without outside influence."

LIFESTYLES

Page 6

March 22, 2004

Billboard Top 20 Albums

1. Norah Jones, *Feels Like Home*
2. Various Artists, *Bad Boy's 10th Anniversary... The Hits*
3. Jessica Simpson, *In This Skin*
4. Evanescence, *Fallen*
5. Kenny Chesney, *When The Sun Goes Down*
6. Kanye West, *The College Dropout*
7. Maroon5, *Songs About Jane*
8. Josh Groban, *Closer*
9. Sheryl Crow, *The Very Best Of Sheryl Crow*
10. OutKast, *Speakerboxxx/The Love Below*
11. Twista, *Kamikaze*
12. Eamon, *I Don't Want You Back*
13. Chingy, *Jackpot*
14. Britney Spears, *In The Zone*
15. Nickelback, *The Long Road*
16. Jay-Z, *The Black Album*
17. Alicia Keys, *The Diary Of Alicia Keys*
18. Young Gunz, *Tough Luv*
19. Ludacris, *Chicken*N*Beer*
20. G-Unit, *Beg For Mercy*



MOVIE REVIEW

By **Spc. James Truitt**
(films found at AAFES)

The Family man



The Family Man is a warm romantic comedy about a "well to do" businessman named Jack Campbell (Nicholas Cage) who has a 'glimpse' of what could have been. It is a cross between "It's a Wonderful Life" with Charles Dickens' and "A Christmas Carol", set smack in the middle of the Twilight Zone. Tea Leoni co-stars as Cage's ex-girl-

friend and wife (in a parallel universe). The acting is great and the story line is good. All in all, it's a cute movie and worth seeing.

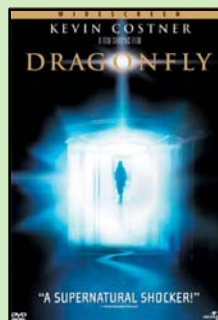
Dr. Zhivago

Dr. Zhivago is an epic tale of a man torn between the woman he married and the woman that he loves, set against the backdrop of the Bolshevik Revolution. Directed by David Lean and starring Omar Sharif and Julie Christie, this film won five Academy Awards in 1965. It's 3 1/2 hours of amazing storytelling through beautiful cinematogra-



phy. Dr. Zhivago is a must see for any avid classic movie lover.

Dragonfly



Dragonfly is about an emergency room doctor (Kevin Costner) who starts to believe that his dead wife is trying to contact him from the 'otherside'. Later, he becomes convinced that she can communicate with him through the bodies of patients who have come close to death. The photography was done well, the acting was ok, however the overall experience of

this film is lacking. The only good thing about this movie is the surprise ending... and then you may decide if it is worth watching or not.

SPORTS

Page 7

March 22, 2004

NHL Conference Standings

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Last 10

Flyers	4-2-3-1
Devils	5-4-0-1
Islanders	3-4-1-2
Rangers	2-6-0-2
Penguins	6-2-2-0

Northeast Last 10

Maple Leafs	6-1-2-1
Senators	5-5-0-0
Bruins	4-5-1-0
Canadiens	8-1-0-1
Sabres	4-3-0-3

Southeast Last 10

Lightning	7-2-1-0
Panthers	5-4-1-0
Thrashers	5-2-1-2
Hurricanes	5-3-1-1
Capitals	2-8-0-0

Western Conference

Central Last 10

Red Wings	7-2-1-0
Blues	5-2-3-0
Predators	2-3-4-1
Blue Jackets	1-6-2-1
Blackhawks	3-7-0-0

Northwest Last 10

Avalanche	5-3-1-1
Canucks	4-3-3-0
Flames	6-2-2-0
Wild	5-0-2-3
Oilers	3-3-4-0

Pacific Last 10

Sharks	5-3-1-1
Stars	6-2-2-0
Kings	4-4-2-0
Coyotes	4-5-1-0
Mighty Ducks	0-7-1-2

NBA Conference Standings

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Streak

Nets	Lost 1
Knicks	Won 2
Celtics	Won 3
76ers	Won 2
Heat	Lost 3
Wizards	Won 1
Magic	Lost 3

Central Streak

Pacers	Won 1
Pistons	Won 6
Hornets	Won 1
Bucks	Lost 3
Raptors	Won 7
Cavaliers	Won 2
Hawks	Won 1
Bulls	Lost 7

Western Conference

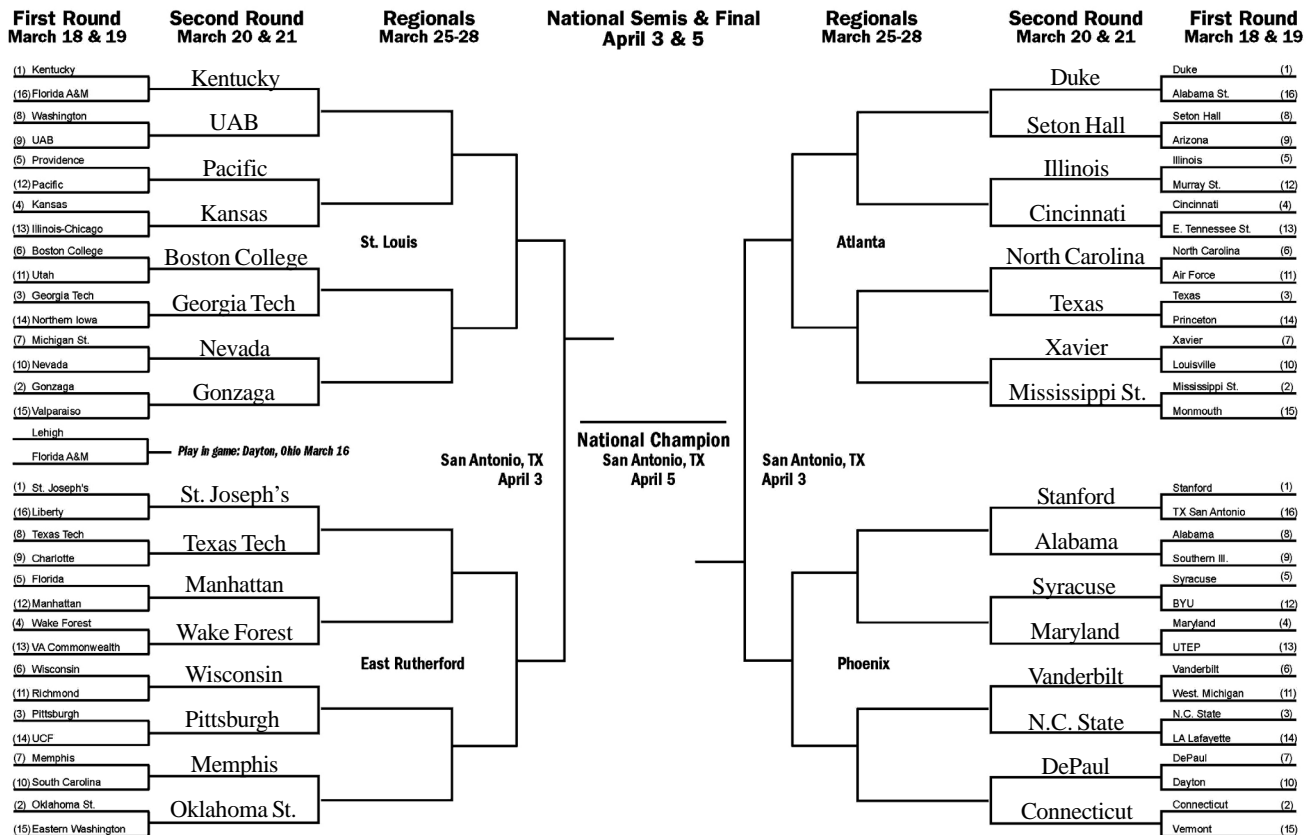
Midwest Streak

Timberwolves	Lost 2
Spurs	Won 1
Mavericks	Lost 1
Grizzlies	Lost 1
Rockets	Lost 1
Nuggets	Lost 1
Jazz	Lost 2

Pacific Streak

Kings	Lost 2
Lakers	Won 1
SuperSonics	Lost 1
Trail Blazers	Lost 1
Warriors	Lost 1
Clippers	Lost 1
Suns	Lost 2

NCAA Men's Basketball: 2004 Tournament Regional Semifinals



PHOTOS

Page 8

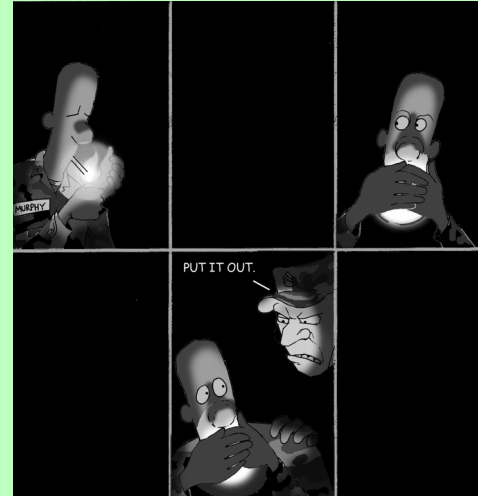
March 22, 2004



Photo by Spc. Blanka Stratford

A Blackhawk helicopter flies through a sunset sky over the grounds of LSA Anaconda, March 15.

PVT. MURPHY



(C) M. Baker 2003



Photo by Pfc. Eric Rodriguez

A young boy looks through a hole in the side of his old school, in a village west of LSA Anaconda nicknamed the "Badlands" due to its reputation as once being an area of war and sadness. Since war, the 17th Field Artillery Brigade has built a new school to replace the old one, as well as constructed a small playground for the local children to play in.



Photo by Spc. Blanka Stratford

Capt. Brian Tomblin, 130th RAOC officer-in-charge of Iraqi Civil Defense Corps (ICDC) training, speaks with ICDC Staff Sgt. Hieder about future prospects for the ICDC Company C. Tomblin has been working with prior Iraqi military cadre in order to teach military values and tactics for the modern Iraqi Army.